

## MIDDLETOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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### PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING

#### MINUTES

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2021

6:30 P.M.

VIA WEBEX

#### 1. Chairman Darnell Ford Calls Meeting to Order at 6:35 P.M.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Councilman Darnell Ford, Chairman  
Councilwoman Meghan Carta  
Councilman Anthony Mangiafico  
Councilwoman Linda Salafia

**MEMBER ABSENT:** Councilman Philip Pessina

**STAFF PRESENT:** Michael Timbro – Acting Chief of Police  
Captain John Lozefski – Administrative Commander  
Captain Michael DeSena – Administrative Commander  
Officer Jason Bodell – Community Relations

#### 2. Approval of Minutes – December 21, 2020

Councilman Mangiafico made a Motion to approve the PSC Minutes for December 21, 2020; Seconded by Councilwoman Carta. There being no discussion or objection, Motion approved unanimously.

#### 3. Public Hearing – Matters on the Agenda Only

None

#### 4. Correspondence

Chief Timbro reported he did not have any correspondence for this month.

#### 5. Monthly Reports

Chief Timbro updated the PSC of the following:

- **Nexgen CAD/RMS System.** They went 'live' on February 1, 2021; that, as expected, there were some issues that needed to be looked into; that it's running, and it's a learning curve.
- **Promotional Tests** were taken for Lieutenant and Sergeant a couple of weeks ago. The Oral Boards will be scheduled within the next two (2) to three (3) weeks. They're currently down two (2) Lieutenants and three (3) Sergeants. They're working with Human Resources to complete the process, and hope to have Promotions in the near future. At this time, Chief Timbro announced that Captain Michael DeSena was promoted from Lieutenant to Captain last month (*January 22, 2021*).

#### 6. Old Business

##### a. *Animal Shelter*

Captain Lozefski reported that the Animal Shelter had a soft opening, and it's up and running.

##### b. *Preparation Update on the CT Police Accountability Bill*

Chief Timbro said that while they've been in compliance, effective January 1, 2021, all uniformed Police Officers are wearing their badges and name tags on their outermost garments.



**6. Old Business (cont'd)**

**b. Preparation Update on the CT Police Accountability Bill**

He reported that they're still working with HR and Legal on developing the procedures for the mandated drug screening, explaining that anyone who's up for certification on July 2021, must be drug tested prior to POSTC (*Police Officer Standards and Training Council*) certifying them; that POSTC has extended their certifications for one (1) year to make sure everything is sorted out and done correctly.

Chief Timbro added that they're also working on the mandated Mental Health Wellness exams; that they're probably going to be implemented before the end of this year. He then went on to explain how it would work.

He said that the body cams and dash cams are required by July 2022, and that the expense will be in their current year budget proposal.

A brief Q&A/Discussion with Captain Lozefski took place regarding the expense of the body and dash cams.

**7. New Business**

**a. Community Relations / Crisis Response Therapy K-9**

Community Relations Officer (CRO) Bodell introduced himself and gave \*a background of his credentials which directly correlates with the program; \*a history of how he became involved with the program; and \*an explanation of how it works. After a Q&A/Discussion, Chief Timbro gave his support for this program and asked that a Motion be made by the PSC to move this forward to the next Common Council Meeting. Councilwoman Salafia made a Motion to bring this forward to accept the donation of a Therapy Dog; Seconded by Councilman Mangiafico. Chairman Ford thanked CRO Bodell, and took this opportunity to speak about his professional experience involving mental health; that this is exactly what the citizens of Middletown are looking for; that they need a different look at what the Police Department is about and how they bridge the gaps between the Police Department and the community; and that 9 times out of 10, he (CRO Bodell) will have his full support. He also encouraged all Police Officers that may have ideas like this, to please bring them forward. There being no further discussion, Motion passed unanimously.

**8. Public Hearing Reopened – Other Matters**

**David Roane, 352 Newfield Street, City**

Mr. Roane said he was speaking as Chair of the Democratic Town Committee and Chair of the Police Reform Sub-Committee. He asked Chief Timbro for an update on the hiring of the new Police Chief. Chief Timbro said he could not; that it would come from HR.

Mr. Roane then said that the sub-committee sent a policy to intervene to the Police Department and to the (PSC) members; that they have yet to hear any response. Chief Timbro replied that he received a proposal for a policy, and explained the department follows POSTC guidelines in the Use of Force Policy – for legal reasons as well as accreditation purposes.

Mr. Roane then said his next topic was for both Police and Fire. He spoke about an incident that occurred on Sunday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, at approximately 11:00 A.M., regarding an elderly woman who had fallen and was badly injured on the corner of Court and Broad Streets; and how an Officer who drove by did not assist. After giving a more detailed account of the incident, Mr. Roane was advised that Fire was not currently virtually on (*at the PSC Meeting*). Chief Timbro explained that Police do not get sent to medical emergencies; that Fire are the First Responders. However, he advised Mr. Roane that if he were to give him the details of that day, he would look into it. Mr. Roane thanked him and told him he would get the information to him. Chairman Ford also requested that Mr. Roane send the same information to William Russo, Director of Public Works, to ensure the sidewalk was not the cause of the accident.

*Public Safety Commission Meeting*

*February 22, 2021*

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**9. Meeting Adjourned...**

Councilman Mangiafico made a Motion to adjourn; Seconded by Councilwoman Carta. There being no discussion or objection, Motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 7:25 P.M.

**Next Public Safety Commission Meeting: Monday, March 15, 2021, 6:30 P.M.**

**TO VIEW THIS MEETING IN ITS ENTIRETY, PLEASE VISIT THE FOLLOWING WEBSITE:**

[www.cityofmiddletown.com](http://www.cityofmiddletown.com)

- Public Meeting Videos
- Available Archives
- 2021
- Public Safety Commission (PSC)

Respectfully Submitted,



Rosa B. Perichi  
Recording Secretary